

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NASA-01 /041 R

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AID/NESA:CHREES

EB/OFPP:CCAVANAUGH

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P 272128Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS - PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT'S PRESS  
SPOKESMAN FOR USE ON CONTINGENCY BASIS:

Q: WHAT HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DONE IN RESPONSE  
TO MRS. GANDHI'S LATEST ROUND OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS CRITICAL  
OF U.S. POLICY AND ALLEGATIONS OF POSSIBLE CIA ACTIVITIES  
IN INDIA?

A: WE HAVE LODGED STRONG PROTESTS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND  
IN NEW DELHI. WE BELIEVE MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS ARE COMPLETE-  
LY UNJUSTIFIED AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE GOI'S STATED  
INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE  
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DID NOT PUBLICIZE OUR RESPONSE BECAUSE THIS COULD ONLY LEAD

TO A NEW ROUND OF PUBLIC RECRIMINATIONS AND A FURTHER  
DETERIORATION IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

Q: I HAVE HEARD THE UNITED STATES HAS WITHDRAWN ITS OFFER  
OF ECONOMIC AID FOR INDIA. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

A: WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE TALKS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

UNTIL FY 77. IN OUR VIEW, THE STATE OF OUR BILATERAL  
RELATIONS WITH INDIA DOES NOT JUSTIFY AND COULD NOT SUP-  
PORT A DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD ON ECONOMIC AID THIS YEAR.

Q: IS THIS PART OF OUR RESPONSE TO MRS. GANDHI'S MOST  
RECENT STATEMENTS?

A: IT IS NOT LINKED TO ANY SINGLE EVENT. RATHER IT IS A  
JUDGMENT BASED ON THE OVERALL STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH  
INDIA.

Q: WHAT ABOUT OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH  
INDIA, SUCH AS THE JOINT COMMISSION?

A: WE INTEND THAT THE VARIOUS EVENTS RELATED TO THE JOINT  
COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED. FOR EXAMPLE,  
THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL WILL MEET AS SCHEDULED FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN NEW DELHI FEBRUARY 2-4.

Q: HAS FOOD AID TO INDIA BEEN AFFECTED?

A: THE ONGOING PROGRAM OF FOOD GRANTS UNDER TITLE II FOR  
DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE  
CONTINUED. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN DIS-  
CUSSIONS WITH THE GOI ON A PROPOSED TITLE I PL 480 FOOD  
SALE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AMOUNTS TO BE PROVIDED UNDER  
TITLE I ARE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THE USG HAS TURNED DOWN AN INDIAN RE-  
QUEST THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO USE THE SITE COMMUNICATIONS  
SATELLITE BEYOND THE ORIGINAL AUGUST 1 TERMINATION DATE.  
IS THIS TRUE, AND IS THE DECISION LINKED TO RECENT  
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POLITICAL EVENTS IN INDIA IN ANY WAY?

A: THE GOI REQUEST HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN. BOTH SIDES  
UNDERSTOOD FROM THE OUTSET THIS WAS TO BE A ONE YEAR PRO-  
GRAM. NASA INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT SOME TIME AGO THAT  
THEY HAVE FIRM COMMITMENTS AFTER AUGUST 1 WHICH REQUIRE  
THAT THE SATELLITE BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.  
IT WAS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO APPROVE THE INDIAN RE-

QUEST. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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